

Police Halt Theft Suspect After High Speed Chase

CITY GETS SET FOR NEW STORM; NEW DRAINS PROVE SUCCESSFUL

The Only Paper Blanketing All Sections of Torrance plus Lomita, Harbor City and Adjacent City and County Areas



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BEAUTIES ON PARADE... Gaye Wilson, decked out as Uncle Sam, was joined by Carol Morris to put a spark of beauty in Saturday's All-America victory parade. Miss Wilson is reigning as Miss Torrance, Miss Morris is the current "Miss Universe."

Citizens Lauded At Victory Fete

"Torrance has the character of fresh, new, modern pioneers—a city with traditions in the making," Attorney General Edmund G. "Pat" Brown told a banquet audience of 500 at the victory dinner here Saturday night.

"Torrance is the city of today and tomorrow," he said at the climax of the two-day event celebrating Torrance's selection as an All-America City.

Other speakers throughout the evening had made similar characterizations about the city—pointing out a number of times that Torrance was a city which was "getting things done."

Citizens Lauded
Theme of the All-America selection, "citizen participation" was repeated by all speakers of the evening. Superintendent of Schools J. H. Hull and City Manager George Stevens, who set the stage for the tributes Saturday night, both spoke of the citizen participation which went into winning the award.

Frank A. Vanderlip Jr., representing the American Municipal League, and J. W. "Pete" Dailey, of Look Magazine, both emphasized the citizens role in winning the award, and both paid particular emphasis to the manner in which Torrance's school system had been expanded through the active cooperation of Torrance citizens—individual, commercial, and industrial.

"Growth in itself is not too outstanding in the West," Dailey said. "The thing that sets Torrance apart is the emphasis on the personal needs of its citizens, especially its growing school population."

Vanderlip paid similar tribute to the actions of the citizens, and paid tribute to the Torrance Educational Advisory Committee, the Chamber of Commerce, and the Junior Chamber of Commerce for the part those groups played in aiding the orderly development of the city.

"What you have done here without a major increase in tax rates is a credit to efficient management," he said. In accepting the awards for the city, Mayor Albert Isen stressed that "being an All-America city does not mean we are an all-perfect city."

Program Outlined
"Let's take a square look at the future needs," he said. His program for the future called for:

1. The "muddled" civil service ordinance must be cleaned up.
2. Development of a downtown park.
3. Modernized traffic control systems.
4. Development of the airport.
5. Modernization of the city's lighting system.
6. Improvement of the drainage systems.
7. Increase in business and commercial development.
8. Develop neighborhood park program.
9. Halt encroachment of industry on the civic center.

Cafe Thieves Garner \$400
A thief who entered George's Meat N' Eat shop at 1340 El Prado, made off with about \$400 cash, police reported Tuesday. Investigators said the burg-

Police Bullets Halt Youthful Thief in Auto

A high-speed chase and a warning bullet resulted in the arrest of a teen-aged car thief here early Wednesday, according to police.

Officers Tom Pattishall and Donald Lemaster began chasing the Manhattan Beach lad when they spotted him driving a stolen auto on Crenshaw Blvd. near 174th St.

They pursued him to a service station on Crenshaw Blvd., north of Redondo Beach Blvd., where he halted the car and tried to flee on foot. He halted when one of the officers fired a warning shot into the air.

Police said he admitted slipping from his home and stealing the car in Hermosa Beach about an hour before he was caught.

The boy was released to the custody of his parents pending further investigation by juvenile officers.

Chamber to Discuss City Airport Plan

The future of the Torrance Municipal Airport will be the topic for the monthly membership breakfast of the Torrance Chamber of Commerce on Tuesday, Feb. 19th, at the YWCA building, it was announced yesterday by Co-Chairmen Dale Sears and King Williams.

Williams stated that the Airport Commission would be special guests of the Chamber and that a report will be given by representatives from Quinton Engineers who have submitted a master plan for the airport.

Sears added that he felt a complete "open discussion" would be in the best interests of the entire community. It is expected that a record turnout will attend the affair and those wishing reservations are urged to call the Chamber office, FA 8-2814, promptly for reservations. The breakfast will start at 7:30 a.m. and conclude at 8:30 a.m., Williams stated.

City Worker's Rites Today

Final rites for William G. Stevenson Jr., 59, a mechanic at the Torrance city garage, will be held this morning at 11 a.m. at Pierce Bros. Little Church Around the Corner, 3443 W. Manchester Blvd., Inglewood.

Mr. Stevenson died Sunday at his home, 1324 Date Ave. Efforts of Torrance firemen to revive him were in vain. He had lived in Torrance for the past four years. Burial will be in Inglewood Park Cemetery.

He is survived by his widow, Nettie; daughters, Sarah Harrison and Jacqueline Finn; grandson, Michael Finn; sister, William G. Stevenson Sr.; sisters, Grace Hedrick and Madge May, and brother, Robert Stevenson.

Clary Named
William Clary, present vice-principal at Steele School, will become principal at Flavian and 14 teachers at Steele will bring their classes to the new site.



THE OFFICIAL NOTICE... Mayor Albert Isen (left) receives the official All-America certificate from Frank A. Vanderlip Jr. during the victory banquet Saturday night. Seated at the left is Attorney General "Pat" Brown, and at the right is Phil Knox, emcee for the evening.

TRIPS TO LAS VEGAS OFFERED BY MERCHANTS

Three round-trips for two to Las Vegas will be given to lucky local shoppers during February, according to Charlie Gotts, president of the Downtown Retail Merchants division of the Chamber of Commerce.

All that local residents will have to do to enter the contest is to clip out coupons in next week's HERALD and take them to participating stores. Entry blanks also will be available, at these stores. No purchase will be necessary, but entrants will have to bring the coupons to the stores, Gotts said.

The blanks will be available starting Feb. 8. The contest will close on Feb. 23. A big promotion in connection with KLAC's "Salute to Torrance" on Feb. 21, 22, and 23 also is planned by the merchants.

Three couples, winners of the trips to Las Vegas, will receive expense-paid, three-day trips to Las Vegas with the red-carpet treatment. They will fly from Los Angeles via Western Airlines and will have their choice of accommodations at the New Frontier, Sahara, El Rancho Vegas, Flamingo, Tropicana, or Riviera Hotels. Champagne will be provided for their room and reservations for shows there also is scheduled.

Two Schools to Open on Feb. 25

Barring unforeseen trouble, Flavian and Edison Schools should open about Feb. 25, school officials said this week. The two new schools, will relieve the double session problems at Perry, Crenshaw, Carr, and Carl Steele.

Flavian School, located at Hallison and Flavian, will relieve double session problems at Steele School. Edison School, 182nd St., just west of North High School, will take 271 students from Perry School, 285 students from Crenshaw, and 150 from Carr.

Rain No Bother
Rain has not delayed work on these schools since most of the remaining work is on the interior of the buildings. At South High School, where grading has just been completed, some of the excavations had been filled up and will have to be re-dug, officials said.

Parkway School, at Palos Verdes Parkway and Calle Miramar, is expected to open about April 1, relieving double sessions at Newton and Riviera Schools.

Clary Named
William Clary, present vice-principal at Steele School, will become principal at Flavian and 14 teachers at Steele will bring their classes to the new site. New principal at Edison School will be Lester Foster, now principal at El Nido

Tired of Rain? Could Be Worse—And Has Been

While Torrance residents were cursing the 2.32 inches of rain that made them don raincoats and overshoes and tote umbrellas this week they can take comfort in the fact that the moisture could have been worse and was, just last year.

It was just over a year ago that rain fell in torrents in Torrance, sending muddy waters surging into many local homes and virtually isolating Torrance from Los Angeles. Torrance recorded the greatest amount of rain in one day—6.53 inches on Jan. 28, 1956—that has fallen since the Fire Department started keeping rainfall figures in 1938.

Before 1938 the city kept no official records of the heavenly waters which fell within its All-American limits.

Wet Month
Ironically, a high January, 1956, brought the wettest day, the biggest storm, and the most rain in a single month during the past 18 years, the last six months of 1956 were the driest in recorded history, with only 4.1 inch.

A glance at the records seems to indicate that it does not rain as much as it used to. In the period from 1939 to 1947, total rainfall averaged 14.63 inches. In the 1948-57 period, average rainfall dropped to 8.49. The 16-year average however, figures out to 12.15 inches.

More than two-thirds of the city's rainfall sprinkles down during the first six months of the year, the records indicate. An average of 8.49 inches fell from January to June during the past 16 years, with only 3.54 inches fell in July to December.

Dry Spell
The city suffered a real dry spell during 1947 to 1950 and in 1953. In 1947, only 3.42 inches of rain fell, with only .6" of an inch more in 1953.

Wettest recent year was in 1941, when 26.10 inches of rain came down here. Summer is always a dry period locally, with almost no rain in August or September. Generally, the city's precipitation begins in October or November and ends in May.

Sumps Readied For More Rain

Torrance was mopping up yesterday after its first heavy rain of the season and was getting set for the scheduled arrival of another storm early today.

A number of accidents occurred on slick Torrance streets this week as the skies opened up, but little damage was reported to local homes.

During the 24-hour period ending Tuesday night, 1.67 inches of rain fell, bringing the month's total to 4.44 inches. Rain has fallen on 17 of January's 31 days.

Residents on Mindora Dr. just east of Palos Verdes Blvd. complained that water was pouring down a right-of-way for Lomita Blvd. and into their back yards.

River Found
Mrs. Cyril D. Buresh, 5102 Mindora Dr., told the HERALD that during rains, water runs down the right-of-way like a river and pointed out the heavy ditches created by the flow. Residents have been told by the city that it does not own the property.

Otherwise, despite the puddles of water on streets, there were few reports of serious flooding. The recently-completed Cabrillo Ave. and Glenburn Ave. storm drains seemed to handle all the water that caused much flooding in downtown and in north Torrance in previous years.

Police reported that although there were a number of bent fenders and short tempers as the result of collisions, there were no serious accidents.

Crews Alerted
Emergency crews have been alerted for a new storm scheduled to hit here early today.

CHAMBER BOARD TOLD Annexations OK If Areas Agree

"It is the consensus of the City Council that where mutual advantage appears, the several annexation programs in process are desirable," City Manager George Stevens told the Board of Directors of the Torrance Chamber of Commerce at their meeting Monday.

"I must remind you," Stevens said, "that any proceedings thus far instituted by Torrance are secondary to situations where territories involved already have incorporation programs under way."

Explaining the city's position in the Lomita case he declared: "The Lomita proposal offers Torrance the opportunity to straighten its now somewhat irregular boundaries to more logical shapes. Present and potential prospects indicate that the new territory could pay its way and offers prospects of eventually becoming a very prosperous commercial center."

Interrogated about the proposal to annex Redondo, the city manager said: "All I know about this is what I read in the papers. It would have to be approved by voters in both cities. Like the other proposals it is a very long range program. All in all I see nothing too wrong about annexation where there is mutual agreement."

Sponsor Flower Entry
Torrance will be represented in the International Flower Show at Hollywood Park racetrack, it was decided Monday when the Chamber of Commerce approved an expense

Sumps are being pumped and areas cleared to take the water expected in the new storm, city officials reported yesterday.

Most sumps in the city were adequate to handle the rains earlier this week, but need to be lowered before taking another storm, it was reported.

Traditional trouble spots, such as the Paseo de Gracia sump in Hollywood Riviera, were manned shortly after the rain started this week and were kept under control.

"We were better prepared for this storm than any time in recent years," City Manager George Stevens told the HERALD yesterday.

Airman Knerr Returns From Far Eastern Duty

Airman 1/c Leonard A. Knerr, 22, son of Mr. and Mrs. Thomas Knerr, 1326 W. Carson St., is spending a 27-day furlough at home after an 18-month tour of duty in the Far East.

A graduate of Narbonne High School, Knerr has been in the Air Force for four years. He will report for duty at Rapid City, S.D., after his furlough is over.

Horlander Praised

Douglas Horlander, chairman of the committee for the city's All-America celebration, reported that the celebration was a success and was held within the limits of the budget. He was given high praise by the Board members for his leadership in the event.

Councilman Nick Dralle reported to the Board on the activities of the Inter-city Highways Committee. He gave a resume of the committee's effort thus far in attaining adequate highways for the area. He requested support from all Chambers of Commerce in the Southwest and Bay areas and cited the importance of campaigning for action on the San Diego and Harbor freeways.

All incumbent Board members representing the five community areas within the city were renominated to serve another term. Councilman Willys Blount will continue to serve as the city's representative on the Board.

(Continued on Page Three)